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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News From: Parole and Probation

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Nevada Department of Public Safety Parole and Probation Testing GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) Sex Offender Tracking *90-day pilot program increases and enhances sex offender monitoring by Parole and Probation Officers*

Las Vegas, NV~ The Nevada Department of Public Safety unveiled a new sex offender monitoring program today at an event at the Parole and Probation offices in Las Vegas. The pilot technology uses GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) to track offenders' movement and involves six Nevada sex offenders currently supervised by the Nevada Department of Public Safety Division of Parole and Probation.

Each participating sex offender wears an electronic anklet that is tethered to a GPS tracking device which cannot be removed without sounding an alarm to Parole and Probation officers. When offenders are at home, the GPS equipment is used like a house arrest system using radio frequency. If the offender leaves home, the GPS tracking device activates satellites that track the offender's movement. This movement information is sent to Parole and Probation officers and is transmitted to a computer map grid indicating locations offenders are allowed and those they are not. Offenders have pre-approved activities such as work, counseling or school which the GPS system confirms. Parole and Probation officers are on stand-by and ready to respond to any violation communicated to them by this technology.

DPS Parole and Probation Chief John Gonska confirmed the GPS evaluation as positive so far. "We are at the half way mark for evaluation of this important offender monitoring system and the prognosis is extremely positive," Gonska reports. "Provided the remaining months of the program are a success, we will determine the return on investment and likely ask the Nevada Legislature to provide the necessary funding to purchase the technology."

The total cost for the pilot program is \$2700.00 or \$5.00 per day per offender. Additional expenses include stand-by pay for each officer and/or overtime pay. The test group of sex offenders includes three probationers, one parolee, one life time supervision offender and one Interstate Compact parolee from Texas. In each offender's case, the controlling jurisdiction (Judge or Parole Board) orders these offenders comply with the GPS tracking program as a condition of their supervision.

The Nevada Parole and Probation, a Division of the Department of Public Safety, is responsible for providing monitoring and supervision to 600 sex offenders in Clark County and 17,474 regular supervision offenders statewide. The Division also conducts pre-sentence investigations for Nevada District Courts on all felony and gross misdemeanor convictions. For further information on GPS sex offender monitoring technology, contact Parole and Probation Officer Adam Page at 702-486-3169.

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